

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 22 February 2001 (22.02.01)	
International application No. PCT/IB00/00995	Applicant's or agent's file reference PDC/AB/21503
International filing date (day/month/year) 05 July 2000 (05.07.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 09 July 1999 (09.07.99)
Applicant BEUQUE, Jean-Bernard, Gerard, Maurice et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
 04 January 2001 (04.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Pascal Piriou Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

COZENS, Paul Dennis
MATHYS & SQUIRE
100 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8AL
GRANDE BRETAGNE

RECEIVED
MATHYS & SQUIRE

16 JUL 2001

REPLY DATE

13/8(0)
Reply Written Opinion
DIARY ENTERED

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

POX OA- 13/8

Date of mailing

(day/month/year)

13.07.2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PDC/AB/21503

REPLY DUE

within 1 month(s)

from the above date of mailing

International application No.

PCT/IB00/00995

International filing date (day/month/year)

05/07/2000

Priority date (day/month/year)

09/07/1999

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

G06F11/00

Applicant

CANAL+ SOCIETE ANONYME et al.

1. This written opinion is the **first** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain document cited
 - VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 09/11/2001.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized officer / Examiner

Weber, V

Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits)

Koski, P

Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2709



I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

Description, pages:

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-51 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1-9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been and will not be examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 41-51,

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 41-51 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A written opinion cannot be drawn due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Claims 1-40

Inventive step (IS) Claims

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No. PCT/IB00/009

Industrial applicability (IA) Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

No opinion as to novelty and inventive step can be done at the present stage of the examination for claims 41-43, since such claims can only be considered in combination with novel and inventive apparatus and or method claims (see point VIII).

Claims 44 to 51 are objected as indefinite under PCT Article 6 in that they rely on references to the description, *contrary to the PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Chapter III, paragraph 4.10*, and hence are so broad that they fail to recite any structure at all. The examiner is thus unable to determine the true scope thereof. Therefore, no meaningful opinion as to novelty or inventive step can be done for said claims.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

As far as the present set of claims could be interpreted in view of the clarity objections raised under point VIII, it would appear that the present independent claims are so broadly formulated that they lack of novelty, infringing Article 33(2) PCT.

Indeed, the formulation of present claims 1,6,13,15,18,29, and 37 is so broad that even document D1 = WO-A-98/43165 which has been originally acknowledged on page 2 of the present description, takes away the novelty of said claims. See therefore, D1, page 2, lines 9-22, and page 11, lines 5-10.

A copy of D1 is annexed to the present written opinion.

Moreover, given the high level of generalisation of the present claims, the examiner deems it appropriate to merely refer to the search report for demonstrating that the present claims are not novel in view of the documents cited in the search report; namely:

Present claims 1-5, 13-19 and 29-33 are anticipated by the teachings of document D2 = WO-A-98/36356, see abstract and also D2, p.2, lines 17-19, p.3, lines 22-29 and p.4, lines 11-30.

Present claims 6-12, 34-40 are anticipated by the teachings of document D3 = EP-A-0 848 341, see in particular, col.10, line 8 to col.13, line 5.

Present claims 20-28 are anticipated by the teachings of document D4 = WO-A-95/33338, see in particular, p.1, lines 1-7, p.9, line 19 to page 10, line 20 and page 27, line 35 to page 31, line 18.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

It is not at present apparent which part of the application could serve as a basis for a new claim which would satisfy the criteria set forth in Article 33(1) PCT.

Should the Applicant regard some particular matter as suitable an independent claim including such particular matter should be filed taking account of Rule 6.3(b) PCT. Reference signs should be inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility.

The Applicant should also indicate in the letter of reply the difference vis-à-vis the state of the art D1 to D4 and the significance thereof. In which case also, the Applicant will have to bring the description into conformity with these claims and acknowledge D2-D4 in the introductory part of the description; care should be taken during revision, especially of the introductory portion including any statement of problem or advantage, not to add subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed, (Article 34(2)(b) PCT).

In order to expedite further examination the applicant is requested to indicate with his reply the locations in the application as originally filed of the passages forming a basis for his amendments.

The Applicant is free to amend the application in any way he chooses provided that his amendments remove the deficiency and otherwise satisfy the requirements of the PCT. All the above objections should be remedied in order to bring the application within the frame of the PCT, unless the Applicant can provide convincing arguments to the contrary when filing the next amendments.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

The various definitions of the invention which is given in independent claims 1,6,13,15,18,20,28,34,37,38,41,42 and 43 are neither clear nor concise.

The original set of claims comprises six independent claims (claims 1,6,13,15,18 and 20) in the apparatus category, four independent claims in the method category (claims 29,34,37 and 38) and three independent claims (claims 41,42 and 43) in the category defining a computer program product.

The various definitions of the invention given in said independent claims are such that the claims as a whole are not clear and concise, contrary to Article 6 PCT.

Claims 1 and 6 are both directed to a receiver/decoder. However, independent claim 6 substantially differs from claim 1 in that claim 6 is silent about the debugging of the stored application.

Likewise, claims 13 and 15 are both directed to a workstation in combination with a receiver/decoder. Likewise, independent claim 15 substantially differs from claim 13 in that claim 15 is silent about the debugging of the stored application.

Although independent claims 18 and 20 have been draft as two separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter directed to a same application development tool regrouping the workstation and the receiver/decoder, and to differ from each other only with regard to the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter.

It is noted that method claims 29 and 37 define the method equivalent features of claims 1 and 6, respectively. However, no corresponding apparatus claims could be attributed to independent method claims 34 and 38, since claim 34 is the sole independent claim defining an "individual file" and since claim 38 is the sole independent claim defining a "boot file".

Finally, independent claims 41, 42 and 43 can only be viewed as giving three alternative redundant versions of basically the same vague computer program product. Thereby, the applicant is reminded that claims directed to a computer program product can only be taken into consideration if the application provides a novel and inventive method and/or apparatus. Thereby, a "computer program product" claim should make clear that it is specially adapted to a novel and inventive apparatus claim, and that it contains instructions specially adapted to perform all the steps of a novel and inventive method when said instructions are executed.

Thus, bearing in mind that any independent claim should define all the features which are essential to the invention and considering the above identified differences, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the above proliferation of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the reader to determine what are in fact the features essential to the invention, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

Independently of the fact that the present claims 1 to 43 are not novel for the reasons which are given in above section V, the various definitions of the invention which are given in the present independent claims also render unclear what the link, which should regroup the inventions of the independent claims under the same inventive concept, should be.

In the present case, it would have been appropriate to use a set of claims defining the relevant subject-matter in terms of a minimum number of independent claims in each category followed by dependent claims covering features which are merely optional;
Rule 6.4 PCT.

In the present case, provided the applicant can prove that his application comprises

some inventive matter, it would be considered appropriate to use at most only:

- (i) one independent claim per category, that is, one method, one apparatus and one computer program product, directed the receiver/decoder;
- (ii) one independent claim per category, that is, one method, one apparatus and one computer program product, directed the workstation;
- (iii) one independent claim per category, that is, one method, one apparatus and one computer program product, directed the application development tool encompassing both the receiver/decoder and the station.

PCT

REC'D 18 SEP 2001

WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PDC/AB/21503	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IB00/00995	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 09/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F11/00		
Applicant CANAL+ SOCIETE ANONYME et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 9 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 14.09.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Weber, V Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2791 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-51 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1-9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 41-51.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 41-51 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims 1,18,29

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

	No:	Claims	6,13,15,20,34,37,38
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-5,7-12,14,16-19,21-33,35,36,39,40
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-40
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

No opinion as to novelty and inventive step can be given for claims 41-43, since said claims can only be considered in combination with novel and inventive apparatus and or method claims (see point VIII).

Claims 44 to 51 are objected as indefinite under PCT Article 6 in that they rely on references to the description, *contrary to the PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Chapter III, paragraph 4.10*, and hence are so broad that they fail to recite any structure at all. The examiner is thus unable to determine the true scope thereof. Therefore, no meaningful opinion as to novelty or inventive step can be done for said claims.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

As far as the present set of claims could be interpreted in view of the clarity objections raised under point VIII, it would appear that the present independent claims are so broadly formulated that they either lack of novelty or involve no inventive step, infringing Article 33(2) or Article 33(3) PCT, respectively.

Independent claims 1, 18 and 29:

Fig.5 of D1 = WO-A-98/43165 discloses a receiver/decoder (2021) comprising means for storing an application (D1,p.11, lines 5-8), means for running a stored application (D1,p.11, lines 8-10), and means for communicating over links (4031-1,4031-2,4031-3) debugging message(s) to a workstation (4001) for use by the workstation in debugging the stored application (D1, p.2, lines 9,10 and 20-22, and p.9, lines 28,29).

It thus follows that claim 1 merely differs from what is disclosed in D1, in that claim 1 defines a network where D1 defines simple links or channels, thus precluding remote

communication. However, remote running and testing of applications via networks such as the internet is, at the date of filing of the present application, commonplace. In this respect reference is made to document D2 = WO-A-98/36356, p.2, lines 11,12, p.3, lines 22-28, p.6, lines 19-23 and p.7, lines 15-30.

Therefore, in the above difference no inventive step can be seen since the person skilled in the art, having knowledge of document D1 and faced to the problem of having to communicate over a distance which would extend beyond the local communication disclosed by the system of D1, would deem it a matter of course that the teachings of D1 can be enhanced with the teachings of D2 in a straightforward manner in order to achieve remote communications. Said person skilled in the art would thus arrive at a system falling under the terms of claim 1 without having to exercise any inventive skill.

It follows that the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(3) PCT because claim 1 involves no inventive step in respect of D1 taken in combination with D2 as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1)-(3) PCT).

The same applies to method claim 29 since said claim merely define the method equivalent features of claim 1.

The same applies to claim 18 since said claim substantially defines an application development tool encompassing the features of claim1 and not defining any further technical feature going beyond those already defined in claim 1.

Independent claims 6,13,15,20,34,37 and 38:

Claims 6, 20, 37 and 38:

Unlike claim1, the receiver/decoder as recited in claim 6 does not define a network. Although D1 does not explicitly define the terms "external storage means", it is nevertheless a matter of course for the skilled person that the workstation (4001) of D1 can be viewed from the receiver/decoder (2021) as an external storage means since obviously, said workstation comprises some storage means (4011) which is not part and thus external to the receiver/decoder (2021). Likewise, it is a matter of course that the receiver/decoder (2021) of D1 comprises means for reading at least one of the files

from the external storage means (4011) since said receiver/decoder is adapted to extracts any data signals in accordance with any applications contained in the receiver/decoder (D1, p.11, lines 8-10).

It follows that the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because claim 1 lacks of novelty over D1.

The same applies to method claims 37 and 38 since said claims, besides some terminology inconsistencies, merely define the method equivalent features of claim 6.

The same applies to claim 20 since said claim substantially defines an application development tool encompassing the features of claim 6 and not defining any further technical feature going beyond those already defined in claim 6.

Claims 13,15 and 34:

Figure 3 of D2 discloses a workstation (302) for debugging an application stored and running on a remote receiver/decoder since, in D2, the target system (314) which is to be debugged, inherently does comprise a program or an application (D2, p.2, lines 11,12). Moreover, in D2, the workstation (302) likewise comprise means for communicating a debugging message with the target (314) over a network (internet 306).

It follows that the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because claims 13 and 15 lack of novelty over D2.

The same applies to method claim 34 since said claim merely define the method equivalent features of claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-5,7-12,14,16,17,19,21-28,30-33,35,36,39,40:

In said dependent claims minor modifications to the features defined their respective head claims are set out, all of which in so far as they are not explicitly disclosed in the cited prior art, relate to routine measures normally to be expected of the skilled person. Thus these claims likewise involve no inventive step.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

I. Main clarity objection due to multiple independent claims:

The various definitions of the invention which is given in independent claims 1,6,13,15,18,20,28,34,37,38,41,42 and 43 are neither clear nor concise.

The original set of claims comprises six independent claims (claims 1,6,13,15,18 and 20) in the apparatus category, four independent claims in the method category (claims 29,34,37 and 38) and three independent claims (claims 41,42 and 43) in the category defining a computer program product.

The various definitions of the invention given in said independent claims are such that the claims as a whole are not clear and concise, contrary to Article 6 PCT.

Claims 1 and 6 are both directed to a receiver/decoder. However, independent claim 6 substantially differs from claim 1 in that claim 6 is silent about the debugging of the stored application.

Likewise, claims 13 and 15 are both directed to a workstation in combination with a receiver/decoder. Likewise, independent claim 15 substantially differs from claim 13 in that claim 15 is silent about the debugging of the stored application.

Although independent claims 18 and 20 have been draft as two separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter directed to a same application development tool regrouping the workstation and the receiver/decoder, and to differ from each other only with regard to the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter.

It is noted that method claims 29 and 37 define the method equivalent features of claims 1 and 6, respectively. However, no corresponding apparatus claims could be attributed to independent method claims 34 and 38, since claim 34 is the sole independent claim defining an "individual file" and since claim 38 is the sole independent claim defining a "boot file".

Finally, independent claims 41,42 and 43 can only be viewed as giving three alternative redundant versions of basically the same vague computer program product. Thereby, the applicant is reminded that claims directed to a computer program product can only be taken into consideration if the application provides a novel and inventive method and or apparatus. Thereby, a "computer program product" claim should make clear that it is specially adapted to a novel and inventive apparatus claim, and that it contains instructions specially adapted to perform all the steps of a novel and inventive method when said instructions are executed.

Thus, bearing in mind that any independent claim should define all the features which are essential to the invention and considering the above identified differences, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the above proliferation of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the reader to determine what are in fact the features essential to the invention, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

Independently of the fact that the subject-matter of claims 1-40 is either not novel or not inventive for the reasons which are given in above section V, the various definitions of the invention which are given in the present independent claims also render unclear what the link, which should regroup the inventions of the independent claims under the same inventive concept, in fact is.

II. Clarity objection due to too unclear terms:

The term "individual" that is used in independent claim 34 is, in the context of a computer file, relative and cannot be given a well-recognized meaning. Likewise in claim 37 the terms "as it is required to run" are merely subjective to the skilled person.

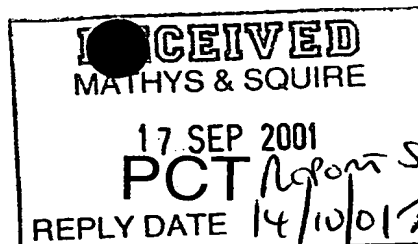
Claims 34 and 37 are therefore objected as indefinite under PCT Article 6 for lack of clarity as the examiner is unable to determine the real scope of the limitation defined by said objected terms.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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NOTIFICATION OF THE
DIARY ENTRIES
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 14.09.2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference
PDC/AB/21503

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/IB00/00995

International filing date (day/month/year)
05/07/2000

Priority date (day/month/year)
09/07/1999

Applicant
CANAL+ SOCIETE ANONYME et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/



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D-80298 Munich
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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PDC/AB/21503		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/IB00/00995	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 09/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F11/00		
Applicant CANAL+ SOCIETE ANONYME et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 9 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 04/01/2001		Date of completion of this report 14.09.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer Weber, V Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2791 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-51 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1-9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 41-51.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 41-51 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims 1,18,29

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

	No:	Claims	6,13,15,20,34,37,38
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-5,7-12,14,16-19,21-33,35,36,39,40
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-40
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

No opinion as to novelty and inventive step can be given for claims 41-43, since said claims can only be considered in combination with novel and inventive apparatus and or method claims (see point VIII).

Claims 44 to 51 are objected as indefinite under PCT Article 6 in that they rely on references to the description, *contrary to the PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Chapter III, paragraph 4.10*, and hence are so broad that they fail to recite any structure at all. The examiner is thus unable to determine the true scope thereof. Therefore, no meaningful opinion as to novelty or inventive step can be done for said claims.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

As far as the present set of claims could be interpreted in view of the clarity objections raised under point VIII, it would appear that the present independent claims are so broadly formulated that they either lack of novelty or involve no inventive step, infringing Article 33(2) or Article 33(3) PCT, respectively.

Independent claims 1, 18 and 29:

Fig.5 of D1 = WO-A-98/43165 discloses a receiver/decoder (2021) comprising means for storing an application (D1,p.11, lines 5-8), means for running a stored application (D1,p.11, lines 8-10), and means for communicating over links (4031-1,4031-2,4031-3) debugging message(s) to a workstation (4001) for use by the workstation in debugging the stored application (D1, p.2, lines 9,10 and 20-22, and p.9, lines 28,29).

It thus follows that claim 1 merely differs from what is disclosed in D1, in that claim 1 defines a network where D1 defines simple links or channels, thus precluding remote

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

communication. However, remote running and testing of applications via networks such as the internet is, at the date of filing of the present application, commonplace. In this respect reference is made to document D2 = WO-A-98/36356, p.2, lines 11,12, p.3, lines 22-28, p.6, lines 19-23 and p.7, lines 15-30.

Therefore, in the above difference no inventive step can be seen since the person skilled in the art, having knowledge of document D1 and faced to the problem of having to communicate over a distance which would extend beyond the local communication disclosed by the system of D1, would deem it a matter of course that the teachings of D1 can be enhanced with the teachings of D2 in a straightforward manner in order to achieve remote communications. Said person skilled in the art would thus arrive at a system falling under the terms of claim 1 without having to exercise any inventive skill.

It follows that the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(3) PCT because claim 1 involves no inventive step in respect of D1 taken in combination with D2 as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1)-(3) PCT).

The same applies to method claim 29 since said claim merely define the method equivalent features of claim 1.

The same applies to claim 18 since said claim substantially defines an application development tool encompassing the features of claim1 and not defining any further technical feature going beyond those already defined in claim 1.

Independent claims 6,13,15,20,34,37 and 38:

Claims 6, 20, 37 and 38:

Unlike claim1, the receiver/decoder as recited in claim 6 does not define a network. Although D1 does not explicitly define the terms "external storage means", it is nevertheless a matter of course for the skilled person that the workstation (4001) of D1 can be viewed from the receiver/decoder (2021) as an external storage means since obviously, said workstation comprises some storage means (4011) which is not part and thus external to the receiver/decoder (2021). Likewise, it is a matter of course that the receiver/decoder (2021) of D1 comprises means for reading at least one of the files

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

from the external storage means (4011) since said receiver/decoder is adapted to extracts any data signals in accordance with any applications contained in the receiver/decoder (D1, p.11, lines 8-10).

It follows that the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because claim 1 lacks of novelty over D1.

The same applies to method claims 37 and 38 since said claims, besides some terminology inconsistencies, merely define the method equivalent features of claim 6.

The same applies to claim 20 since said claim substantially defines an application development tool encompassing the features of claim 6 and not defining any further technical feature going beyond those already defined in claim 6.

Claims 13,15 and 34:

Figure 3 of D2 discloses a workstation (302) for debugging an application stored and running on a remote receiver/decoder since, in D2, the target system (314) which is to be debugged, inherently does comprise a program or an application (D2, p.2, lines 11,12). Moreover, in D2, the workstation (302) likewise comprise means for communicating a debugging message with the target (314) over a network (internet 306).

It follows that the present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(2) PCT because claims 13 and 15 lack of novelty over D2.

The same applies to method claim 34 since said claim merely define the method equivalent features of claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-5,7-12,14,16,17,19,21-28,30-33,35,36,39,40:

In said dependent claims minor modifications to the features defined their respective head claims are set out, all of which in so far as they are not explicitly disclosed in the cited prior art, relate to routine measures normally to be expected of the skilled person. Thus these claims likewise involve no inventive step.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

I. Main clarity objection due to multiple independent claims:

The various definitions of the invention which is given in independent claims 1,6,13,15,18,20,28,34,37,38,41,42 and 43 are neither clear nor concise.

The original set of claims comprises six independent claims (claims 1,6,13,15,18 and 20) in the apparatus category, four independent claims in the method category (claims 29,34,37 and 38) and three independent claims (claims 41,42 and 43) in the category defining a computer program product.

The various definitions of the invention given in said independent claims are such that the claims as a whole are not clear and concise, contrary to Article 6 PCT.

Claims 1 and 6 are both directed to a receiver/decoder. However, independent claim 6 substantially differs from claim 1 in that claim 6 is silent about the debugging of the stored application.

Likewise, claims 13 and 15 are both directed to a workstation in combination with a receiver/decoder. Likewise, independent claim 15 substantially differs from claim 13 in that claim 15 is silent about the debugging of the stored application.

Although independent claims 18 and 20 have been draft as two separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter directed to a same application development tool regrouping the workstation and the receiver/decoder, and to differ from each other only with regard to the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter.

It is noted that method claims 29 and 37 define the method equivalent features of claims 1 and 6, respectively. However, no corresponding apparatus claims could be attrituted to independent method claims 34 and 38, since claim 34 is the sole independent claim defining an "individual file" and since claim 38 is the sole independent claim defining a "boot file".

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EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00995

Finally, independent claims 41,42 and 43 can only be viewed as giving three alternative redundant versions of basically the same vague computer program product. Thereby, the applicant is reminded that claims directed to a computer program product can only be taken into consideration if the application provides a novel and inventive method and or apparatus. Thereby, a "computer program product" claim should make clear that it is specially adapted to a novel and inventive apparatus claim, and that it contains instructions specially adapted to perform all the steps of a novel and inventive method when said instructions are executed.

Thus, bearing in mind that any independent claim should define all the features which are essential to the invention and considering the above identified differences, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the above proliferation of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the reader to determine what are in fact the features essential to the invention, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

Independently of the fact that the subject-matter of claims 1-40 is either not novel or not inventive for the reasons which are given in above section V, the various definitions of the invention which are given in the present independent claims also render unclear what the link, which should regroup the inventions of the independent claims under the same inventive concept, in fact is.

II. Clarity objection due to too unclear terms:

The term "individual" that is used in independent claim 34 is, in the context of a computer file, relative and cannot be given a well-recognized meaning. Likewise in claim 37 the terms "as it is required to run" are merely subjective to the skilled person.

Claims 34 and 37 are therefore objected as indefinite under PCT Article 6 for lack of clarity as the examiner is unable to determine the real scope of the limitation defined by said objected terms.

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



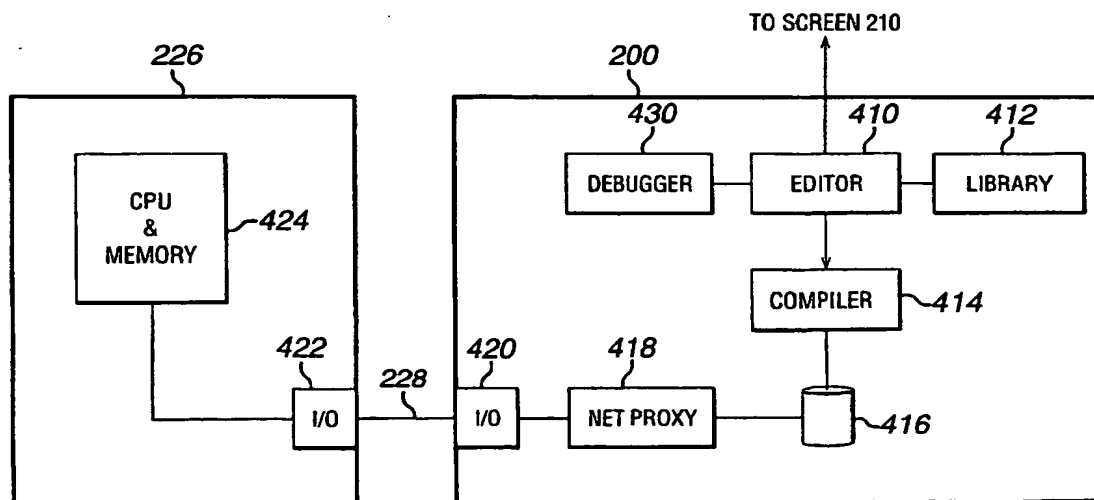
(43) International Publication Date
18 January 2001 (18.01.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/04751 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 9/445**, 11/00
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB00/00995
- (22) International Filing Date: 5 July 2000 (05.07.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
99401746.5 9 July 1999 (09.07.1999) EP
00102043.7 2 February 2000 (02.02.2000) EP
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CANAL+ SOCIETE ANONYME [FR/FR]**; 85/89, quai André Citroën, F-75711 Paris Cedex 15 (FR).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BEUQUE, Jean-Bernard, Gerard, Maurice [FR/FR]**; 132, rue Victor Hugo, F-92270 Bois-Colombes (FR). **LIAO, Hongtao [FR/FR]**; 4, rue du Canal, F-78180 Montigny-Btx (FR). **BOUDOKHANE, Mahmoud [FR/FR]**; Canal+ Technologies Société Anonyme, 34, place Raoul Dautry, F-75516 Paris Cedex 15 (FR). **VINCENT, Didier [FR/FR]**; Canal+ Technologies Société Anonyme, 34, place Raoul Dautry, F-75516 Paris Cedex 15 (FR).
- (74) Agents: **COZENS, Paul, Dennis et al.**; Mathys & Squire, 100 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8AL (GB).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
6 December 2001
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: RUNNING AND TESTING APPLICATIONS



(57) Abstract: A receiver/decoder for testing an application, for example, for an analogue or a digital television system, is disclosed, the receiver/decoder comprising means for exchanging messages with a network, and means for running the application in dependence on a message received from the network. The receiver/decoder may be used for debugging the application. An associated workstation, and an application development tool for editing and testing applications, are also disclosed. Also disclosed is a method of transferring an application from a workstation to a receiver/decoder, and methods of running an application on a receiver/decoder.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PDC/AB/21503	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/IB 00/ 00995	International filing date (day/month/year) 05/07/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 09/07/1999
Applicant CANAL+ SOCIETE ANONYME et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

6

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC 700 B 00/00995

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G06F9/445 G06F11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, PAJ, WPI Data, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 36356 A (ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES INC) 20 August 1998 (1998-08-20) abstract	1-5, 13-19, 29-33, 42-45, 48,50,51
X	WO 98 21653 A (SYMBIOS INC) 22 May 1998 (1998-05-22) abstract	1-5, 13-19, 29-33, 42-45, 48,50,51



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 June 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/06/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Kingma, Y

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC 92 B 00/00995

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 615 331 A (LIU ELIZABETH Q ET AL) 25 March 1997 (1997-03-25) abstract ---	1-5, 13-19, 29-33, 42-45, 48,50,51
X	EP 0 848 341 A (WEBTV NETWORKS INC) 17 June 1998 (1998-06-17) column 10, line 8 -column 13, line 5; figure 8 ---	6-12, 34-41, 46,47 27
A	WO 95 33338 A (BELL ATLANTIC NETWORK SERVICES) 7 December 1995 (1995-12-07) page 9, line 19 -page 10, line 20 page 27, line 35 -page 31, line 18 -----	20-28 7,10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 00/00995

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9836356	A	20-08-1998	EP 0961971 A	08-12-1999
WO 9821653	A	22-05-1998	US 5983017 A	09-11-1999
			AU 5249198 A	03-06-1998
US 5615331	A	25-03-1997	NONE	
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			AU 5261298 A	10-06-1998
			JP 10198571 A	31-07-1998
			WO 9823059 A	28-05-1998
			US 6023268 A	08-02-2000
			US 6230319 B	08-05-2001
WO 9533338	A	07-12-1995	US 5635979 A	03-06-1997
			AU 2657995 A	21-12-1995
			US 5666293 A	09-09-1997
			US 5768539 A	16-06-1998
			US 5978855 A	02-11-1999